



Date: December 7, 2009  
To: All Pediatricians and Family Physicians  
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Re: H1N1 Influenza vaccine administration to school-aged children (K-12)

**As of December 16, Rhode Island pediatricians and family physicians are authorized to administer H1N1 vaccine to children in kindergarten through grade 12 who missed their schools' H1N1 vaccination clinics.** Providers are urged to administer intranasal vaccine to children who are older than 2 years of age and who are medically able to receive the live attenuated vaccine. Pediatricians and family physicians should reserve injectable vaccine for children who cannot receive the live attenuated vaccine.

HEALTH's H1N1 vaccine provider enrollment system is once again open. Current program enrollees who would like to increase their original patient estimates to accommodate their school-aged patients can now make these changes in the system. The enrollment process will close again on December 11 at 4 p.m.

Providers are encouraged to not administer second doses of H1N1 vaccine to school-aged children (K-12). HEALTH will vaccinate school-aged children (K-12) who are younger than 10 years of age in late January or early February in its second round of school-based clinics. During routine office visits providers may, if vaccine supply allows, begin administering second doses of H1N1 vaccine to children who are older than 6 months of age but not yet in kindergarten or to children who attend kindergarten in preschool settings. Pediatricians and family physicians should note that HEALTH will make additional shipments of intranasal vaccine available in the next two weeks.

HEALTH will continue to make vaccine delivery updates in its biweekly Provider Briefings. Vaccine distribution data should be entered weekly as part of provider offices' reports to HEALTH. If you have any questions, you can send them to [vaccine@health.ri.gov](mailto:vaccine@health.ri.gov) or you can call HEALTH's H1N1 Information Line (401-222-8022).

### **Resources**

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- H1N1 Information Line (Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.) (401) 222-8022
- H1N1 email address [h1n1@health.ri.gov](mailto:h1n1@health.ri.gov)
- <http://www.flu.gov>